

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 230363

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 230363

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. TRUDEAU'S NEW CABINET: MENDING FENCES WITH BUSINESS

EMBASSY OTTAWA BELIEVES THE SEPTEMBER 14 CABINET SHUFFLE  
SERVES THREE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES IN TRUDEAU'S PUSH TO  
RECAPTURE POPULAR SUPPORT:

--TO REGAIN BUSINESS CONFIDENCE BY APPOINTING JAMIE-  
SON TO EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND CHRETIEN TO INDUSTRY,  
TRADE AND COMMERCE;

--TO PROJECT A TAKE-CHARGE IMAGE WITH APPOINTMENTS OF  
TOUGH, ABLE AND INDUSTRIOUS BACKBENCHERS;

--TO PERSEVERE IN CONVINCING THE COUNTRY OF THE IM-  
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PAGE 02 STATE 230363

PERATIVES OF BILINGUALISM.

TRUDEAU COUNTERED THE PRO-BUSINESS TILT BY NAMING TONY ABBOTT, A BRIGHT AND ACTIVE BACKBENCHER, AS THE NEW MINISTER OF CONSUMER AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS. HE STILL COULD NOT RETAIN THE ALLEGIANCE OF THE HIGHLY POPULAR BRUCE MACKASEY, HOWEVER, WHOSE LOSS TOOK THE SHINE OFF THE SHUFFLE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE MOVES SHOULD MAKE THE CABINET MORE EFFECTIVE, AND WILL REFURBISH THE PARTY IMAGE WITH NEW FACES. MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE BELIEVE THE NEW TEAM WILL GIVE GREATER ATTENTION AND HIGHER PRIORITY TO CANADIAN RELATIONS WITH THE US. (CONFIDENTIAL) OTTAWA 3725, 9/16.)

## 2. SWEDISH ELECTIONS: OPPOSITION RIDES AN EMOTIONAL ISSUE

THE OPPOSITION CENTER PARTY IS RIDING AN EMOTIONAL TIDE AGAINST NUCLEAR ENERGY AS THE SWEDISH ELECTION CAMPAIGN ENTERS ITS FINAL WEEK. EMBASSY STOCKHOLM REPORTS THAT PALME FINDS HIMSELF AND HIS SOCIAL DEMOCRATS INCREASINGLY FORCED TO ANSWER CENTER LEADER FALLDIN'S SLOGAN, "DON'T VOTE AWAY SECURITY; VOTE AWAY NUCLEAR ENERGY;" LESS DRAMATIC ISSUES SUCH AS THE ECONOMY AND SOCIAL BENEFITS HAVE BEEN PUSHED INTO THE BACKGROUND.

THE EMBASSY NOTES THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS APPARENTLY ARE HAVING SOME TROUBLE MAINTAINING THEIR TRADITIONALLY HIGH MORALE, BUT BELIEVES THE ELECTION IS STILL "EXTREMELY CLOSE." (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) STOCKHOLM 5046, 9/15.)

## 3. ITALY: A LOOK AT DC-PCI RELATIONS

EMBASSY ROME SUGGESTS THAT PRESENT DC-PCI RELATIONS ARE CONSIDERABLY MORE FLUID THAN MIGHT BE THOUGHT. IN SUPPORTING THEIR THEORY, THE EMBASSY SAYS:

--THE DC CHOSE TO ACCEPT A GREATER COMMUNIST ROLE IN PARLIAMENT AS THE LEAST COSTLY WAY TO OBTAIN NEEDED PCI SUPPORT.

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PAGE 03 STATE 230363

--WHILE STILL EXCLUDED FROM PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT, THE PCI IS NOW SADDLED WITH THE RESTRAINT OF RESPONSIBILITY.

--SINCE ANDREOTTI HAS STRESSED THAT ALL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN PARTIES WILL TAKE PLACE OPENLY IN PARLIAMENT, THE OTHER PARTIES, PARTICULARLY THE PCI, WILL NOW BE

FORCED TO TAKE PUBLIC POSITIONS ON DC PROPOSALS.

--IF THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE DC CAN INFLUENCE THE  
PSI'S FUTURE COURSE IS LIMITED, THE PCI'S LEVERAGE  
ON THE SOCIALISTS IS ALSO IMPERFECT.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WE SEE THE DC AND PCI AT SOMETHING OF A  
STALEMATE. IF THE PCI ENJOYS THE PSYCHOLOGICAL EDGE, BOTH  
PARTIES HAVE AN EQUAL CHANCE TO EXPLOIT THE NEW SITUATION.  
(CONFIDENTIAL) ROME 15012, 9/15.)

4. WILL THERE BE A SOUTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION?

EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES SAYS THERE IS INCREASED CONCERN IN  
ARGENTINA OVER THE DANGER TO SECURITY OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC  
REGION BECAUSE OF SOVIET/CUBAN PENETRATION INTO SOUTHERN  
AFRICA. MERCADO, AN INFLUENTIAL WEEKLY NEWS AND COMMENTARY  
MAGAZINE, HAS SUGGESTED THAT THE TIME IS COMING  
FOR AN INTEGRATED FORCE, MADE UP OF COUNTRIES IN THE REGION  
AND LED BY THE US, TO PREPARE TO DEFEND SOUTHERN AFRICA FROM  
THE MARXIST MENACE. THOSE WHO FAVOR THE IDEA SAY:

--THE "MARXIST GEOPOLITICAL THREAT" IS NO LONGER FAR  
AWAY FROM THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE, IT IS JUST ACROSS  
THE WATER.

--THE ADVANCE OF COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN SOUTHERN  
AFRICA WOULD HAVE DIRE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CONTROL  
OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AND ASSURED PASSAGE AROUND CAPE  
HORN.

EMBASSY COMMENT: SOME MILITARY AND GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIALS  
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PAGE 04 STATE 230363

HAVE INDICATED CONCERN. OTHERS DISMISS THE WHOLE IDEA OF  
A NEW THREAT TO SOUTH ATLANTIC SECURITY AS THE HEATED IMAGININGS  
OF EXTREME ANTI-MARXIST ARMCHAIR GENERALS AND ADMIRALS.  
(CONFIDENTIAL) BUENOS AIRES 5999, 9/15.) HABIB

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